

Copy for Ted

**context**  
M E D I A

The sketch makes it look like  
I have a boxer's nose. (Not yet.)

B.

February 17, 1999

Letters Editor  
The New York Observer  
54 East 64<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10021

To the Editor:

It was with great relief that I read Nick Paumgarten's piece on the forthcoming publication of Theodore Kaczynski's *Truth Versus Lies* in the February 22 issue of the *Observer*. Although the tendency to vilify the book has been minimal among journalists, the possibility hangs there like a Damocles sword.

One point of clarification: Kaczynski's book is not a memoir. It shares some of the characteristics of that genre, but, to be fair, it is really a sort of taking-to-task: Kaczynski retells his life story only because it was so inaccurately rendered by the media during the year and a half leading up to his non-trial. Kaczynski specifically contends that he is not insane. It's worth noting that the court-appointed psychiatrist (who was hired to diagnose some form of insanity) only came up with a *provisional* diagnosis of borderline paranoid schizophrenia. The rest is spin history, which is the subject of Kaczynski's book.

Also: the comparison to Barney Rosset was inaccurate, since the discussion was about historically comparable books that widen our horizons vis-à-vis the manner in which society in general and publishers in particular censor difficult or socially "unacceptable" material.

Finally, any particular reason why you ran the "Schizophrenia Article" on the same page?

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